



SOIL AND WATER *Resources*



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November 2016

Voters Renew Missouri's Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax through 2026

In November, Missouri citizens renewed Missouri's Parks, Soils and Water Sales tax through 2026. The tax is divided equally to fund the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Program and Missouri State Parks. The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax is placed on the ballot every 10 years to reaffirm voter support of the park system and soil and water conservation efforts. The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax was first approved by voters in 1984. More than two-thirds of Missouri voters renewed the tax in 1988 and 1996; 70.8 percent voted in favor in 2006 and 80.1 percent approved the sales tax most recently in 2016.

"The renewal of this key funding source is a reflection of the hard work that staff in the Soil and Water Conservation Program and Missouri State Parks do on behalf of Missourians," said Harry Bozoian, director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. "It shows that Missourians care about the fields we farm, the water we drink, and the natural and cultural beauty that we preserve. I thank all of the members of the public, the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and our partners for their work to ensure that Missouri's legacy of healthy waters and soil conservation continues for future generations."

Of Missouri's 44.6 million acres of land, 14.8 million are considered cropland. With almost half of Missouri's cropland soil classified as highly erodible, controlling and minimizing erosion is a significant challenge for Missouri's farmers. Since 1984, Missouri's Soil and Water Conservation Program, working through the local soil and water conservation districts, has saved more than 179 million tons of soil from eroding and has provided over \$694 million to Missouri agricultural landowners to voluntarily implement more than 229,000 conservation practices using revenues from the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax.

Local county soil and water conservation district boards, staff and conservation partners provide assistance to farmers and agricultural landowners to voluntarily implement locally approved soil and water conservation practices. Fifty different soil and water conservation practices are available to address the following: grazing, woodland erosion, irrigation, animal waste, nutrient and pest application to crops and pastures, protection of sensitive areas such as streams and sinkholes, and to prevent sheet, rill and gully erosion. Contact your local soil and water conservation district office by visiting swcd.mo.gov/index.html.

For more information, visit dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/history.htm.



Funding from the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax can help Missouri landowners install a cover crop conservation practice, such as this one in Butler County. Cover crops are one of 50 conservation practices available from your local soil and water conservation district.

Soil and Water Districts Commission Holds October Meeting in Jefferson City - New Incentives

At the Oct. 12 Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission meeting the commission approved a flat rate incentive payment of \$2,000 for comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMP) completed by a technical service provider for animal waste management practices. A landowner will receive reimbursement of \$2,000 toward the CNMP after the animal waste management building is completed.

The commission approved a one-time grazing school incentive of \$75 for a landowner that implements a grazing system practice to help defray the costs associated with attending a grazing school. The system operator is required to attend an approved grazing school provided by the University of Missouri, in conjunction with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, prior to the district's submittal for a contract for review.

Sign up to Receive Email and Text Messages from Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Subscribe now to receive your choice of email or text messages from participating Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Subscribers will receive eAlerts about topics related to their local soil and water conservation district such as:

- Board meeting announcements
- Reminders about deadlines
- Updates to web pages
- New information from the district
- Announcing office closure hours
- Job announcements
- Field days
- Grazing schools
- Training
- Meetings



Visit swcd.mo.gov to find your local district office and subscribe online.

Soil and Water Conservation Program Starts Process to Update Rules

The Soil and Water Conservation Program has started the process to update all the rules that apply to the program. Rules are required by statute to be updated every 10 years. Rules that currently apply to the program are available on the Missouri Secretary of State's website at sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/10csr/10csr#10-70

Dates to Remember

Dec. 14 to 16 - Missouri Governor's Conference on Agriculture at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach
<https://agconference.mo.gov>



Conservation practices help reduce erosion. Contact your local soil and water conservation district to find out about getting financial cost-share assistance to install eligible conservation practices.

Spotlight on Soil and Water Conservation Practices:

Irrigation Management



Sprinklers and nozzles

Irrigation management is the artificial application of water to land to assist in the production of crops. These practices are designed to address the protection of water quality through efficiently and uniformly applying water to control runoff, the appropriate application of nutrients and chemicals, and to conserve water supplies.

There are six practices with cost-share funding available:

- Water conveyance - Install underground pipeline to create a closed system of water transport to prevent water loss from irrigations systems.
- Sprinklers - Upgrade sprinklers and nozzles on existing pivot irrigation systems to increase system efficiency.
- Surface and subsurface irrigation - Efficiently convey irrigation water from a source to the point of application without causing erosion, water loss or reduction in water quality. This practice allows for more efficient use of irrigation water through improved application methods.
- Tail water recovery - Collect and reuse irrigation run-off water to protect surface water and conserve agricultural pesticides and fertilizer.
- Drainage water management - Install underground pipeline to drain excess water away from planting areas and control release of water for optimal environmental benefits.
- Structure for water control - Reduce chemical and nutrient loading to downstream surface water by properly retaining irrigation water on agricultural fields.

For more information about conservation practices and cost-share assistance contact your local soil and water conservation district by visiting swcd.mo.gov.



Surface irrigation can improve water efficiency on cropland by using a surge valve and polypipe.



A water control structure may be installed as a way to control levels and flows from a field.

Soil and Water Related Videos Available Online

A video archive of past Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission meetings is available online. To view these meeting videos, visit the archives webpage at dnr.mo.gov/videos/archive-meetings.htm.



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